

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates. The newspaper/broadcast

cross-ownership cap is a crucial element of our democratic media, and it should not be weakened.

As a current DBS subscriber and former cable subscriber I am opposed to the proposed merger of the Dish Network with DirectTV. In addition to the millions of rural DBS subscribers that will be without a choice of provider, it is important for the FCC and DOJ to recognize the relative lack of choice presently existing in the many metro markets where the cable operator system is simply non-competitive with DBS. Merger of the only two REAL providers of DBS technology will ALSO leave such customers without a REAL choice for multichannel video services. The number of subscribers situated in metro markets where cable plant is simply antiquated dwarfs the 6 million estimated rural subscribers who would be without choice if the merger is approved.

A second consideration is service. Sure, Mr. Ergen can guarantee a national pricing plan that will assure rural customers the same "competitive" rates customers in urban markets might enjoy, but such pricing does not guarantee competition when it comes to SERVICE. Certainly, with only one DBS operator, service to rural customers will sink to new lows. Competition among installers and repair service operators will disappear. If a DBS customer experiences a problem with his equipment necessitating an onsite visit, the service repairman is likely to visit the site whenever he gets around to it . . . because the customer will have NO CHOICE.

For the reasons above, plus the many we read about in the press, I urge the FCC and DOJ to not approve the merger of the Dish Network and DirectTV.